

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1.-26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) An illumination system comprising:

a central control unit; and

at least one lamp operating device for operating one or more

associated lamps, wherein

the lamp operating device can be operated in different operational modes, and

the central control unit and the lamp operating device are so

configured that the selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating device can be carried out from or via the central control unit.

28. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 27,

wherein the operational mode of the lamp operating device makes possible a dimming of the associated lamps.

29. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 27,

wherein the selection and setting of the operational mode for the lamp operating device is effected through a transmission of a corresponding control command from the central control

unit.

30. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 29, further comprising a bus line system via which the central control unit is connected with the lamp operating device and which is provided for the transmission of control commands.

31. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the lamp operating device includes a memory for storing information relating to operational modes available for operation of the lamp.

32. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein the lamp operating device operates the lamp associated therewith in a base function when no operational mode has been selected.

33. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 32, wherein within a scope of the base function, the lamp operating device switches on and switches off the lamp associated therewith.

34. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 27, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, is alterable by means of the central control unit.

35. (Previously Presented) An illumination system according to claim 34, wherein the central control unit increases the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum-brightness level of the lamp, in response to an increasing operating time.

36. (Currently Amended) An illumination system according to claim 35, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type ~~and/or a luminaire type~~.

37. (Currently Amended) An illumination system according to claim 36, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp ~~and/or a dirtying of the luminaire~~ is compensated.

38. (Previously Presented) A lamp operating device for operating an associated lamp, operable in different operational modes, wherein a selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating device can be determined externally.

39. (Previously Presented) A lamp operating device for operating an associated lamp, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, can be externally set.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a lamp by means of a lamp operating device, wherein

the lamp operating device is operable in different operational modes, and the selection and setting of an operational mode for the lamp operating device is effected externally.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 40, wherein the selection and setting of the operational mode for the lamp operating device is effected by means of a transmission of an external control command.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 40, wherein at least one of the selectable operational modes of the lamp operating device makes possible a dimming of an associated lamp or lamps.

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein the lamp operating device operates a lamp associated therewith in accordance with a base function when no operational mode has been selected.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 43, wherein the lamp operating device switches on and switches off the associated lamp within a scope of the base function.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 40, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level which can be set by means of the lamp operating device can be altered.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein a switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level of the lamp (LA), is increased in response to an increasing operational time.

47. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type ~~and/or a luminaire type~~.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 47, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, an aging of the lamp ~~and/or a dirtying of the luminaire~~ is compensated.

49. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a lamp by means of a lamp operating device, wherein a brightness level of the lamp in a switched-on condition, or a maximum brightness level settable by means of the lamp operating device, is alterable.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49, wherein the switched-on brightness level or the maximum brightness level of the lamp is increased in response to an increasing operational time.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a lamp type ~~and/or a luminaire type~~.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51, wherein by means of an increase of the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp and/or a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

53. (New) An illumination system according to claim 36, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

54. (New) An illumination system according to claim 35, wherein a degree of increase of the switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a luminaire type.

55. (New) An illumination system according to claim 54, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

56. (New) An illumination system according to claim 54, wherein by means of an increase of an switched-on brightness level, or the maximum brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

57. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.

58. (New) A method according to claim 46, wherein a degree of increase of

the switched-on brightness level, or of the maximum brightness level, is dependent upon a luminaire type.

59. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, an aging of the lamp is compensated.

60. (New) A method according to claim 58, wherein through an increase of the switched-on brightness level, a dirtying of the luminaire is compensated.